# THE ROLE OF WOMEN DIPLOMATS IN FOREIGN POLICY MAKING: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES

A

SYNOPSIS

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**Introduction**

Globalization is an interconnectedness and interdependency where power is the soul essence of global politics that can assure survival of states thus all states are trying to maximize their power. For a long period of time this notion has been dominating the world politics but with the emergence of new perspectives of global politics it has been started challenging, so the feminists started claiming that symbol of power is frequently concomitant with masculine notion particularly unlike feminine idea. Due to gender construction, generally women's role has been excluding from politics including national as well as international politics. As famous political Scientist Aristotle in renowned book (Politics, 384-322BC) stated that "In the difference between sexes, men are considered better and more in nature, while women are underestimated".[1]Gender Stereotype spread across the world politics and particularly in foreign policy in full potential. Although democracy talks of equality, liberty and justice but in practice even in the postmodern era it could not succeeded to provide each one his and her due. Two giants of democracy in the world India and the USA have not performed well to provide proper participation of women in politics as well as in foreign policy.

Although women cover half of the world population (Male 50.4% and Female 49.6%) [2] but their membership remains less than half. Such as according to the current report of the IPU (Inter Parliamentary Union) in 2019 average representation of women is 24.3% in their parliament, here India stands with 23.1% and the USA with 21.7%. Furthermore the IPU data 2019 revealed that women heads of state worldwide includes 6.6% and women as heads of government incorporates 5.2%, which is found decreasing from the earlier data of 2018. Countries where women are leading their states are Bangladesh (HG), Barbados (HG), Croatia (HS), Estonia (HS), Ethiopia (HS) and Germany (HG) etc.[3] Notably we could not recognise the name of so called great power America and Asian Tiger India in this list. The USA holds more male elite's views as no woman became head of the state till now. Also there are very few female representatives dominating its foreign services such as only 3 women foreign secretaries named Madeleine Albright (1997 to 2001), Condoleezza Rice (2005 to 2009), and Hillary Clinton(2009 to 2013) out of 70 foreign secretaries of the USA.[4] In India, only one woman became the head of the state named Indira Gandhi and only two women could be seen as external affairs minister such as Indira Gandhi and Sushma Swaraj out of 29.[5] Despite the fact

over a period of time women diplomats participation is growing in the area of Foreign Services comparatively. It could be identified that women diplomats are contributing significantly in Indio-US foreign policy whenever they got the chance. The list includes various names like Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Indira Gandhi, Chokila Iyer, Nirupama Menon Rao, Sujatha Singh, Sushma Swaraj, Pooja Kapur, Nina Sibal, Arundhati Ghose, Shamma Jain, Monika Kapil Mohta and Ruchira Kamboj etc from India while Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton, Carol Moseley Brawn, Eleanor Roosevell, Shirley Temple, Marsha E. Barres and Nicole A. Avant, etc from the USA. But there are still a huge number of gaps between men and women in Indo- US foreign policy unfortunately. The reasons for less participation of women diplomats in the Indo-US foreign policy are patriarchal structure, socio- cultural construction of gender, gender stereotypes, lack support to women from their family member to join politics, male dominating structure within political parties, the problem of insecurity etc. Therefore the research will provide an opportunity to study the feminist perspectives in foreign policy along with examining the role and status of women diplomats in the Indo- US foreign policy. Factors affecting women diplomats' representation and comparative analyses will also be drawn from the study.

**Review of Literature**

- **Lahti et.al (1995):** This book throws light on the role of gender in power, leadership and governance within patriarchal society. Because of that women are frequently demotivated to acquire powerful higher position. Though they are capable to lead from an authoritative position in government but still they do not get chance to be a part of the decision making process. Thus in the global politics an idea of power, leadership and governance are often associated with men only. [6]
- **Stetson (1997):** The book completely concentrates on the status of women in governmental policies of the USA. Over period of time women were often excluded from their political, social, economic, religious and cultural rights in the US society. But from the entrance of feminism in1990s in the nation various suggestions put forwards to the US agencies to implement the gender equality and liberty. But these recommendations are still not fully applied in the USA.[7]

- **Burrell (2004):** In this book author is exploring the political participation of women in American Politics. In the history women are well dominating in the American politics. They were participating in war, politics and governance equally to men. But by the time they were omitted from political activity because of the patriarchal structure as they were supposed weak and unable to run the politics. Thus the gender type of notion is discriminating women to participate in politics. They were facing the problem of insecurity, inequality and injustice in the US political system. Also they are humiliated on the bases of sex, class, and race. Thus various waves of feminism are suggesting that gender equality is important for enriching the position of women in global politics.[8]
- **Linse (2004):** The article extensively focuses on the role of women in the US Foreign Services. It could be recognized that earlier women were restricted to the private work only; they were completely removed from the public work like job, work outside the home, making career. By the time much later in 1924 women of the USA got an equal chance to enter in most prestigious post of Foreign Service. But there representation remains less than men because of major problems like insecurity, inequality, subordinating role in foreign affairs etc.[9]
- **Bullough (2008):** The article is started with the description of the global factors affecting women's participation in leadership. Women are facing various hindrances while participating in the role of leadership. Most of the women are engaged in less important post across the globe. Several researches have shown that only 70 women have occupied the post of prime minister and president across the countries. Further author is exploring multiple factors such as the gender socialization, patriarchy; social norms, conservative mind-sets etc are affecting women's participation in global politics. Thus writer suggests that world society must take initiatives to improve the position of women across the global politics.[10]
- **Tickner (2008):** The book widely focuses on the feminist perspective in global politics. The connotation of feminism shows that the notion of gender is socially and culturally created by patriarchal society, which is discriminating in nature. Further various waves of feminism were also emerged to improve the status of women in world society such as Liberal feminism states

that there is a need to develop the position of women in politics by providing them equal rights, laws and an opportunity. After that critical feminism argues the unequal wages problem has been faced by women in unorganised sector. Post structural feminists argues that all knowledge has been generated by male which discriminating the women's position in international politics. Thus at last feminist scholars say that there is a need to uplift the status of women in global politics and for that matter global institutions must remove the notion of gender by awaking all people. [11]

- **Koyuncu (2011):** Here writer shows the hegemonic masculine structure of global politics. This conservative structure creates the gender gap between men and women. Hence author states that the connotation of gender socialization restricts women within the private sphere like household work, child caring, etc and men with public sector such as career oriented, outside work, power. Therefore this is the reason for lesser number of women in foreign policy. In concluding lines writer suggests that women's participation is necessary for complete knowledge of any matter in foreign affairs.[12]
- **Shelton et.al (2011):** The article is extensively based on the fact that women's political participation will reinforce the essence of democracy in the USA. During the latter half of the 20th century democracy was fully established in the USA. But the crux of democracy is meaningless without an equal participation of men and women. Although democracy was established in the USA but the participation of women was still limited. Thus for the enhancement of women's number in politics the US government lunched the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The Charter was focused on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.[13]
- **Anna Chu et.al (2013):** The article starts with a general introduction to the role of women in the USA. The article has been divided into three parts, in the first portion writer is talking about economic security of women in the states of USA. In the 21st century women are performing better in the field of economy but still the wages gap is going on. The author is also speaking about the leadership gap between men and women in USA. And at last the condition of women's health is also not upright in the USA. Thus writer states that although

women's status is growing day by day but much remains to be done in order to achieve greater rights, liberty and equality.[14]

- **Hora(2014):**The article is started with an exclusive description of women's participation in public decision making process. From the history women are discarded from official works such as the role in administration, election, execution, legislation and higher level work. Even women cannot enjoy their rights like right to choice, freedom etc. There are various reasons which are disturbing the role of women in public life for instance the legal barriers, deficiency of adequate education, nonexistence of satisfactory skill, deficiency of supporting environment by public bodies, socio-cultural attitude, over burden of domestic service, negative attitude of men towards women, lack of confidence of women and a fear of security.[15]
- **Caughell (2015):** In this book author is mainly exploring the gender gaps in American political system. Over a time the concept of gender subordinate the position of women in American foreign policy. Although women's educational level is growing day by day but still their number is lacking in the political arena. Meanwhile many researches show that women's percentage is increasing in American politics but there number is lacked in foreign policy decision making process. While gender socialization, patriarchal superstructure and the gender stereotypes are the most renowned causes for gender gaps between men and women in US foreign policy. Thus there is a need to socialized asexual connotation to all future generation.[16]
- **Domingo (2015):** In this article the author positively says that women's status have been increased over a period of time in the field of global politics. There are several women who are dominating in the decision making process within states and between the sovereign nations. They enjoy an equal chance to contribute in the foreign policy decision making. Further writer points out that condition of western women is deferring from the Third world women across the global politics. So there is a need to tackle the problem to uplift women's position in the world society.[17]
- **Hess et.al (2015):** The article comprehensively focuses on the status of women in the USA. Over the last decades, women's conditions have improved in all spheres such as socio-

economic, political, cultural etc. But the condition is not that respected as it has been expected. Yet women are under- represented in politics. Moreover by the time although not that radical but a number of enhancements have taken place in context of women such as the statistics of women have enlarged from 14 to 20 in the US Senates and also in the house of representative number grew from 60 to 84 in the year 2004 to 2015. [18]

- **Hudson (2015):** This book pronounces the concept of sex in the US foreign policy through the doctrine of Hillary Clinton. In the starting of Chapters writer argues that women are subjugated in the American foreign policy. As Hilary Clinton accepts that subordination of women remains in the US foreign policy. That is directly threatening a security issue of the US in global politics. Thus this declaration is known as "Hilary Clinton Doctrine". Here Clinton tries to explore the loopholes of the male dominating US foreign policy. And further she suggests that women's inclusion in the US foreign policy decision making process will definitely expand the abilities of the State.[19]
- **Cassidy (2017):** This book broadly focuses on the construction of gender in sphere of diplomacy. Feminists claim that notion of gender is existing in the global politics which is discriminatory in its nature. Further they make clear the connotation of sex and gender; while former is a biological phenomenon later one is a social and cultural created. In this discourse masculinity is associated with power, autonomy, rationality, objectivity, thus the whole global politics is based on gender disparity, where women are often discarded from the political arena. Voices of women have been less heard in the foreign policy even if they are in the authority. [20]
- **Pyeatt et.al (2017):** In this article author shows a comparison between the participation of women in politics extra friendly and less friendly districts of the US. As the numbers of women have been increased from ancient time to the present in the US politics but their contribution could be seen more in those districts of the USA where they got free and an equal chance to participate in Political activities. Basically the notion of patriarchy and gender disparity discriminates women from their actual position in politics. Many analyses show that gender gap is establishing in political activities. Thus to overcome such problem writer is

suggesting to equalizes the position of men and women politics by the Government of US. There is a need to breakdown the hegemonic masculine notion from the politics.[21]

- **Sindhuja et.al (2017):** The article focuses on various obstacles, which are constraining the path of women while participating in global politics. The author believed that real democracy cannot exist without an equal participation of women in political affairs. Furthermore women have proper capabilities to lead the work in politics but there are various factors which constraint the path of women such as firstly the masculine model of politics, the problem of low confidence, patriarchal structure, triple burden, lack of party support, the concept of gender, the problem of insecurity, public private division etc. At the end of the article writer is saying that the male dominating political structure would never encourage the participation of women in global politics. [22]
- **Bashevkin(2018):** The book provides a complete knowledge of women's role in the US foreign policy decision making process. Many researches demonstrate that hegemonic masculinity has mainly neglected women's participation as foreign policy leaders. Further the research conducted by the Women's International Foreign Peace and Freedom (WILPF) shows that women are continued to be expunged from the high profile offices in international politics. In the postmodern period Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton contribute significantly in the area of foreign policy but the representation of women is still less in comparison to men in foreign policy.[23]
- **Brechenmacher (2018):** The main theme of this article is to counter women's underrepresentation in the US politics. Though the great power US has well established democracy but still women got marginalised position in their legislative work. Such as Women presently hold 19.3% of seats in the House of Representatives and 21.0 % in the Senate as from ancient time, the percentage of women has been increased in the US legislative office. At the contemporary pace of advancement, women did not achieve full legislative equality in the U.S. Congress. Further in association with, Western European democracies the US possessed very well socio-economic position but in affair of women advancement it dropped behind. Other Western European countries obsessed 30%of women's seats in their

nation legislature. The countries like Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom—women's distribution of seats in national parliament is very well in assessment to the great power USA. Moreover the percentage of women has increased by the time but the notable point is that mainly political elite such as tremendously white, wealthy, and male are representation in the US politics. [24]

- **McGlen et.al (2018):** The book extensively focuses on women's role in the US foreign policy decision making process. From the history it has been seen that women are hardly getting an equal opportunity to participate in politics such as whether it is Greek city states war, Roman Empire, colonial rule by Britain, World War Second and any international agreements. Though women have been influenced by such foreign policy decisions but unfortunately do not get chance to equally participate in foreign policy. Therefore the gender gap between men and women could be found out in the department of defence and foreign affairs of the USA. Nonetheless there are a number of factors such as social and cultural idea of gender, patriarchy, gender stereotypes, hegemonic masculine etc which are affecting the representation of women in the US foreign policy.[25]
- **Mohan (2018):** The article begins with the review of key insights of women's political participation in India. In India, very small number of women could be recognised as the head of state and government. Also the notable point is that generally elite women could get that top post of politics. It has been extensively knowledgeable that government organization which do not provide for satisfactory participation of women, frequently suffer from state interference which are neither comprehensive nor democratic. Though several laws give an equal opportunity to men and women in India such as by the 73rd constitutional amendment act 1992, women representation have increased in local level. Women numbers have also been increasing in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. But their figure are lacking in politics. The reasons behind an inadequate ratio of women in politics are the connotation of patriarchy, the matter of safety, custom and social norms etc.[26]
- **Rai(2018):**The article provides an entire design of women's position in India. Here women are capable to run the political system but they are extremely drawn in reproductive

responsibility only. In spite of different researches, government programs, global agreements, conferences, the membership of women is still missing as compare to men in India. While in the postmodern age women are much conscious about their rights, social justice and freedom but much more have been required. Further author is saying that even though women are empowered to some degree economically, socially as well as technically but the political participation of women have very slow among them. Patriarchy is one of the main causes of women's exploitation. [27]

- **Tigga (2018):** This article provides a complete notion of feminism in International relations. At the end of 1980's, feminists are claiming that women have been discriminated on the bases of gender. Thus they are seeking for gender equality in foreign policy decision making process. During 1910 to 1950 the first wave of feminism demanded an equal suffrage to women like men, property rights and also political candidature. Along with this, the second wave of feminism started from 1960 to 1980 demanded the removal of patriarchal structure, paid maternity leave, greater admittance to education, rights to abortion etc. lastly the third wave was occurred during late 1990s to 2008, focused to appliance individualism and diversity in the society. They want to include various assemblages of women such as women of different colour, lesbian, bisexual and transgender.[28]
- **Vezhaventhan et.al (2018):** The article widely focuses on women's political empowerment and their membership in India. In India, women are underrepresented in decision making process. Though in comparison with an earlier time women's numbers is gradually growing nowadays but still their participation is less than men. In spite of several provisions such as the Article 14, 15, 15(3), 16,243(D), 325 and 326 which provide various rights to women their representation is lacking in the politics. Further there are various factors, which are affecting the role of women in politics for instance the socio-cultural factor, which creates the traditional beliefs that women are weak and not able to run the politics. It is the duty of women to serve their families and bear their children.[29]
- **Foster et.al (2019):** The article is extensively based on how to execute a new feminist foreign policy within the context of the USA. Nowadays, diplomats of USA are trying to include the

element of feminism in their foreign policy for the further development. The USA has adopted its first national action plan (NAP) on women, peace, and security (WPS) in 2011. In 2017 USA has adopted NSS (National Security Strategy) on women, where women got an equal opportunity to participate in the security planning work. Further feminist foreign policy, which will apply in the context of the US foreign policy easily. These principles are as follows: to give an equal chance to women in all spheres, to increase the number of women leaders, to promote gender equality and to decrease the power imbalance. [30]

- **Mlambo et.al (2019):** The article has been started with the description of women's political participation in the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region. Here writer says that an active participation of women in political decision making process is a matter of equality, peace, democracy, and sustainability. There are various researches which proved that overall political participation are respectable unsatisfactory in the 14 SADCs countries. So the author suggests that there is a need for government to aware all women about their rights and laws. Also give them an equal chance to participate in decision making process.[31]

**Research Gaps**

- Review of literature shows that various studies have already been conducted in the field of women's role in global politics. Moreover numbers of study have also provided an opportunity to see women diplomats' role and their participation in developed countries' foreign policy decision making process. But more specifically we could find out that there is a research gap in the area of women's participation and their role in Indo – US foreign policy.
- From the earlier time to till now no research has been conducted in the field of women diplomats' role in Indo – US foreign policy.
- Notably there is also not any comparative study which could analyse the similarities and differences of the role of women diplomats in Indo- US foreign policy.
- Also various factors such as more noticeably the patriarchal structure, socio-cultural construction of gender, problem of sexual harassment, etc which is influencing women diplomats representation in Indo – US foreign policy. In earlier time these constraints have not

been mentioned in a deep analytical way. Thus the study will surely bring the familiarity with a body of knowledge by filling up such research gaps.

**Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

Feminists notion have been traced in the ancient civilization of Greece and China. Most famous scholar named Christen De Pisan's Book "The City of God" (1405) was supported the education right and political participation of women in public sphere. At the end of 1980s the feminist views were entered in global politics. Furthermore there are various subparts of feminist theories which advocate various viewpoints for the enhancement of the role and status of women in global society such as firstly, **liberal feminists** argued that construction of gender by the patriarchal society is subordinate the position of women in global arena. And because of that women do not get equal rights and opportunities in global politics decision making process. In the postmodern era, the representation of women is still less, marginalized and an inadequate in the area of foreign policy decision making. The reason for the marginalised position of women in world affairs is the connotation of gender that is well defined by the most popular feminist thinker Simone De Beauvoir quoted that "Women are made they are not born" (The Second Sex 1949). [32] In the same context J.Ann Tickner has argued that "Gender order/hierarchy creates women in subordinating position" (Gender in World Politics, 1992). [33] Further masculine features have been finding out in the structure of foreign policy decision making process as once pointed by Carol Cohn in popular book (Sex and Death in the rational world of Defence Intellectuals, 1987) that "Masculinised culture existed in international relation, who explores that state and war projects men."[34] In the same sense J.Ann Tickner who argued "State behaviours are based in characteristics that are defined as masculine and reflect the experience of particular men and hegemonic masculinity…...…Realist neither gender nor women are considered or acknowledged." It is often claimed by feminist scholars that women's experiences have been excluded in foreign policy thus the knowledge of global society is defined partially from the male point of view only, for instance feminist portrayed that "Power relationship often based on extreme inequality and injustice and bases itself an elitist and masculinity discourse (Preistuerk 1981,

Grant and Newland 1991, Tickner 1992)".[35] Also feminist empiricism claimed that all knowledge is described by male centric approach that is partial in nature like as Dale Spender in his famous book "Women of ideas and what men have done to them" 1982 stated that "women have been kept off the record."[36] Meanwhile feminists demand an equal prestige of men and women in foreign affairs for instance Mary Wollstonecraft stated in popular book (A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, 1792) "I do not wish them [women] to have power over men; but over themselves." And for that matter there is need to educate and aware them about their rights women. Consequently she further stated that "Men and Women must be educated, in a great degree by the opinion and manner of the society they live in."[37] They further show numerous types of sufferings for instance human rights violations, rape girl trafficking, income inequality, gender gap between male and female in global politics etc. Gender stereotypes have been prevailed in the global politics from the history to till now**.** Feminists also claimed that women are playing subordinate role in international society. Such as the famous feminist thinker Cynthia Enloe in renowned book (Bananas, Beaches and Bases, 1990) stated that "Women's position in international politics is just shadow subordinate." She further says that "Women are only identified as diplomats' wives, secretaries' clerical workers, and domestic servants and in prostitute work." [38] Thus the gender gap between men and women have seen in the foreign policy as Maurica Duverger claimed that "Women have the mentality of minors in many fields and particular in politics, they will accept paternalism on the part of men, the men, husband financer, lover or myth, is the mediator between them and the political world (Political Role of Women, 1955)." [39] Further **Post –liberal feminists** argued that equality could not achieve in the global politics between male and female, till states do not removed the patriarchal anarchic structure. By the establishment of legal rules in internal as well as external level will enhance the status of women. States should provide reservation and welfare schemes for the improvement of women's participation in global politics. Therefore the role and status of women is undoubtedly seen throughout the lens of feminism in global politics. Feminist scholars argued that notion of gender could be properly seen in the world politics, while investigating women's position in foreign policy decision making. Such as

according to the great **radical feminist** thinker Kate Millett in renowned book (Sexual politics, 1970) stated that "Because of our social circumstances, male and female are really two cultures and their life experiences are utterly different—and this is crucial, implicit." She further says that patriarchal structure is the main obstruction in a success pathway of women such as "Under patriarchy the female did not herself develop the symbols by which she is described as." also "Sexual politics obtains consent through the "socialization" of both sexes to basic patriarchal polities with regard to temperament, role, and status as".[40] Thirdly the **critical feminist theorists** was explored the notion of gender and material condition of male and female. This theory has been influenced by Marx and Gramcian thought on women's position in capitalist global society. A very famous feminist critical theorist named Sandra Whitworth in famous book "Feminism and International Relations" (1994) argued that women's enjoy marginalized position within families because they are not doing paid work. For money they are depending on the male. Further claim that the notion of gender which is socially created must be changed. She has been suggested that by the international organization the idea of gender can be changed in the global politics. These organizations should be formulated impartial policies, which will provide equal opportunity of women in economics spheres.[41] Another theory of feminism is **feminist social constructivism**, which argued that global politics is dominated by the idea of gender stenotypes such as Elisabeth Prugl famous book "The Global Construction of Gender" (1999) claims that most of the home based works have been done by women. But they could not recognize as real work in the patriarchal society. It is unpaid work which is identifying as not a real work but as the so called duty, which must be performed by women at any cost. Thus women are suffering within the four walls of their home. Also they could not get an opportunity to raise their voice.[42] Therefore there is a need for home based women's worker's rights such as International Labour Organization done "Home Work Convention" in 1996 for the rights of women worker within home. Moreover another subparts of feminist theory named **feminist post structuralism** was analysed the relationships between knowledge and power in concerning with the male and female. They argued that knowledge has been explored by the

male in global politics; women are excluded from the global platform. For gaining the ultimate knowledge, there is a need to include women in global politics.[43] Feminists were discarded the conservative social idea that women are week and emotional. Feminist argued, the theoretical and practical connotation of men and women's status in the Global politics is based on hypocrisy. Moreover **Postcolonial feminists** argued that experiences of western imperial world have been different from the third world. So there is a need to remove western states domination in the third world women.

Furthermore, conceptually **foreign policy** is the diplomatic strategies which have been protecting the national interest. Such as according to the Oxford Dictionary, "Foreign Policy is a government's strategy in dealing with other nations."[44] Also the connotation of **foreign policy decision making** is the procedure by which states have been recognising the problem before their national interest and have tried to resolve it. Hence there are several theories of foreign policy such as the according to the **idealistic theory**, foreign policy was a determinant to established peaceful and democratic environment by the international political system. But idealism was criticised by **realistic approach of foreign policy**, which believed that sovereign states have conducted the matters of foreign affairs. And it is the prime duty of states to safeguard their national interest in global politics. [45] Further the **rationalist actor model theory of foreign policy** decision making is the process to select the correct option for the protection of national interest. After that **organisational process model** thought that origination will formulate foreign policy for the welfare of states. **Bureaucratic model of foreign policy making** understood that formulation of foreign policy could be possible by an experts and diplomats of foreign policy making. **Cybernetic theory** of foreign policy will choose all the best alternatives which will good enough for states interest. Further **Prospect theory** of foreign policy believed that states must take decision on the bases of utility. Lastly the **Poliheuristic theory** believed that while formulating foreign policy, governments have to rationally criticise several strategies and after a long discussion they must select various alternatives of foreign policy. [46] Thus at last this research will apply the liberal feminist idea,

Rationality theory, Bureaucratic model, Cybernetic theory and poliheuristic theory into the role of women diplomats in Indo - US foreign policy.

**Statement of the Problem**

In globalized era women diplomats' representations have been increased in world politics. Nowadays women are enjoying choice of rights such as equality, liberty, rule of law, labor rights; right to vote etc at national as well as international levels which were not accessible earlier. Although women's participation is gradually increasing in all spheres such as socio-political, economic, cultural, educational, military, etc. In the context of India and the US foreign policy women diplomats are playing an important role. India and the USA have one of the strongest legal systems that provide women all the necessary rights and liberties to assure a life with full honor and dignity. But the representation of women diplomats is not that adequate according to their population. Though there are various bold ladies such as Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi, Theresa May, Sheikh Hasina, Angela Markel, Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, and Hillary Clinton etc are dominating in global politics but still the representation of women diplomats is less, marginalized and an inadequate in the area of global politics.

Particularly in India and the USA, it could be identified that women diplomats are contributing significantly in the formulation of their foreign policy whenever they got the chance to represent themselves such as Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Indira Gandhi, Chokila Iyer, Nirupama Menon Rao, Sujatha Singh, Sushma Swaraj, Pooja Kapur, Nina Sibal, Arundhati Ghose, Shamma Jain, Monika Kapil Mohta and Ruchira Kamboj etc from India while Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton, Carol Moseley Brawn, Eleanor Roosevell, Shirley Temple, Marsha E. Barres and Nicole A. Avant, etc from the USA have provided remarkable contributions to their foreign policy. But more critically it could be recognized that only one woman became the head of the state in India, named Indira Gandhi and only two women could be seen as external affairs ministers such as Indira Gandhi and Sushama Swaraj out of 29 members.[47] Further the so called great power possess more male elite's views as there is no women head of the state in the USA from earlier time to till now

also there are very few female representatives are dominating in foreign services like only 3 women foreign secretaries have been recognised named as Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, and Hillary Clinton out of 70 foreign secretaries.[48]

The structure of patriarchy is the main problem of the marginalised position of women diplomats in Indo-US foreign policy. Consequently the gender gap between men and women is still prevailing in the Indo-US foreign policy decision making process. The study will provide an opportunity to study the feminist perspectives in foreign policy, examining the role and status of women diplomats in the Indo- US foreign policy. Particularly this will identify factors affecting women diplomats' representation in the Indo-US foreign policy and lastly comparatively analyses of the role of women diplomats in Indo – US foreign policy will be drawn.

**Significance of the Study**

The study will provide an opportunity to view the role and status of women diplomats in the Indo-US foreign policy, particularly to show the subordinate and unsatisfactory position of women diplomats in foreign affairs. Through the feminist perspectives, the study will easily draw the situation of women diplomats in the foreign policy. Along with, it will identify the ratio of women diplomats' participation in the Indo -US foreign policy decision making process. The study will also give a chance to understand the key contribution of women diplomats such as Indira Gandhi, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Chokila Iyer, Nirupama Menon Rao, Sujatha Singh, Sushma Swaraj, Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton, Carol Moseley Brawn, Eleanor Roosevell, Shirley Temple, Marsha E. Barres and Nicole A. Avant etc in the Indo- US foreign policy. Also the structure and procedures of the Indo-US foreign policy decision making has been discoursed. Here further we will highlight the participation of women diplomats in those institutions which is working for the formulation of the Indo-US foreign policy. The research paper will also highlight various constraints for instance the problem of patriarchal society, socio- cultural construction of gender, lack of the support to women from their family member to join politics, male dominating structure within political parties, the problem of insecurity etc, which affect women diplomats' representation in Indo-US foreign policy.

Majorly through this research paper we will get to know about women's condition in developed and developing nation like the USA and India. The study will reveal that, women's membership is also lacking in developed nation foreign policy. Through comparatively analysis the role of women diplomats in Indo – US foreign policy, we will recognise similarities and differences of women diplomats' status in both countries foreign policy decision making. Nonetheless, lastly the study will definitely provide the great opportunity to those researchers who are working in the field of gender studies in global politics as well as in the Indo-US foreign policy.

**Key Terms**

**Women Diplomats, Foreign Policy, Feminists Perspectives, patriarchy**

**Objectives**

1. To study gender asymmetry in the foreign policy making of India and the USA.
2. To identify women diplomats and their role in Indo – US foreign policy.
3. To analyse factors affecting women diplomats under representation in Indo – US foreign policy.
4. To compare the role of women diplomats in Indo – US foreign policy formulation.

**Hypothesis**

1. Due to patriarchal society women diplomats get subordinate position in the foreign policy making of India and the USA.
2. Women diplomats are lagging behind men in contributing significantly in Indo – US foreign policy.
3. Lack of motivation from the family is affecting women under representation in Indo – US foreign policy.
4. The under representation of women diplomats is more in Indian foreign policy making as compared to the USA.

**Research Methodology**

1. Research Design: Descriptive and Analytical.
2. Sources of Data collection:

- Secondary Sources: - All the data will be collected from secondary sources like books, journals, articles, research papers, newspapers, reports of organization and authentic websites of internet and documents etc.

**Chapterisation**

1. Introduction.
2. Gender asymmetry in foreign policy making of India and the USA.
3. Role of women diplomats in Indo – US foreign policy.
4. Factors affecting women diplomats under representation in Indo – US foreign policy.
5. Comparative analysis of the role of women diplomats in Indo – US foreign policy formulation.
6. Conclusion.

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